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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/542,687	07/19/2005	Ken Kimura	16076US	1616
23676	7590	05/19/2006	EXAMINER	
SHELDON & MAK, INC 225 SOUTH LAKE AVENUE 9TH FLOOR PASADENA, CA 91101			TA, THO DAC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/542,687

Applicant(s)

KIMURA, KEN

Examiner

Tho D. Ta

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/19/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to because the figure numbers are not labeled. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bonnefoy (4,445,735).

In regard to claim 1, Bonnefoy discloses an electrical connecting apparatus for electrically connecting electrodes 15 of a device under test 12 and conductive portions 18 formed in a base plate 13, comprising: a plurality of plate-like probes 30 each for electrically connecting one of the electrodes 15 and one of the conductive portions 18, having a tip 31a to be pressed against the one electrode 15 on one end of the probe 30 and a curved outer face 32a on one side of the width direction of the probe 30 and further having a first recess 38 opening on the one side; an assembler for assembling the probes 30 onto the base plate 13 such that the probes 30 are arranged at intervals in the thickness direction and that the tips 31a are projected on the side opposite to the base plate 13, and wherein the assembler includes a cover 26 having a second recess 28 elongated in the arranging direction of the probes 30 and opening on the side of the base plate 13; falling-off preventing members 36 disposed in the second recesses 28 in a state of extending in the arranging direction of the probes 30 and being fitted into the first recesses 38 so as to prevent the probes 30 from falling off the cover 26; and a needle presser 35 extending in the arranging direction of the probes 30 and disposed in the second recesses 28 for making the outer faces 32a of said probes 30 contact the conductive portions 18.

In regard to claim 2, Bonnefoy discloses that the falling-off preventing members 36 are received in the first recesses 38 in a state of close fit.

In regard to claim 3, Bonnefoy discloses that the probe 30 further includes a third recess 38 opening on the other side in the width direction and wherein at least a part of the needle presser 35 is fitted into the third recess 38 (see fig. 4).

In regard to claim 4, Bonnefoy discloses that the cover 26 further has a plurality of slots 27 communicating to the second recesses 28 and opening on the side of the base plate 13 and on the side opposite thereto and arranged at intervals in the arranging direction of the probes 30, wherein the probes 30 extend within the slots to project the tips 31a from the slots toward the side opposite to the base plate 13.

In regard to claim 5, Bonnefoy discloses that the cover 26 has fourth recess (between 10 in fig. 1) opening toward the side opposite to the base plate 13 for receiving the device under test 12 and communicating to the slots 27, the probes 30 projecting their tips 31a into the fourth recesses (see fig. 6, when 31a is tilted toward the right side).

In regard to claim 6, Bonnefoy discloses that the cover 26 further has a fifth recess 37 (see fig. 4, bottom of 26) communicating to a longitudinal end portion of the second recess 28, and wherein the falling-off preventing member 36 is fitted into the fifth recess at a longitudinal end portion thereof.

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In regard to claim 7, Bonnefoy discloses that the probes 30 are pressed against the conductive portion 18 by the needle presser 35.

In regard to claim 8, Bonnefoy discloses that the probes 30 have the other end side brought into contact with a face forming the second recesses 28 (see fig. 6, when a corner of 30 contacts bottom of 26).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**THO D.TA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

tdt  
05/16/06